of the work is Rs. 434.41 lakhs. (Railway's share Rs. 120.80 lakhs and State Government share 313.61 lakhs).

Physical progress of the work is 30%

(c) No, Sir.

(d) During current financial year subject to State Government fulfilling its financial commitment.

Racket in extracting money from unreserved passengers

2236. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a racket is active at New Jalpaiguri station in forcibly collecting money from passengers boarding unreserved compartments;

(b) whether a section of licenced coolies are also a part of such racket, even at Delhi station; and

(c) if so, Government's plans to curb such menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No case of forcible collection of money from passengers boarding unreserved compartments have come to notice at New Jalpaiguri station of Northeast Frontier Railway. Some instances of cornering of berths/seats have come to notice during the checks conducted at New Delhi railway station during the year 1999-2000.

(c) Regular checks are conducted by the Commercial and Vigilance Departments in association with the Police to prevent cornering of seats by coolies and other anti-social elements. In addition, passengers are advised to follow a queue system for preventing cornering of seats in unreserved coaches.

Passenger facilities at model stations

2237. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the minimum essential passenger facilities at Model Stations;

(b) since when the Railway Model Stations Scheme is under implementation;

(c) the number of Model Stations already functioning State-wise;

(d) the proposed Model Stations during 2001-2002; and

(e) the requirements for upgrading the existing stations to Model Stations, on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The model stations have been selected on the railways for the propose of upgrading facilities at these stations. These facilities include provision of Standardised Signages, National Train Enquiry System, Automatic Vending Machines, Modular Catering Stalls, Self Printing Ticket Machines, Improvement in Waiting Rooms, Retiring Rooms, Booking Offices and Toilets, Development of Circulating Area, Making good the deficiencies of infrastructure facilites/passenger amenities, Extension of Foot Over Bridge upto the circulating area and the Computerisation of Complaints. Provision of these upgraded facilities, at the selected stations, however depend upon the category of each of that stations.

(b) The concept of model stations scheme was introduced in June, 1999.

(c) 284 stations have so far been selected as model stations, the details of which State-wise are given in the Statement (*see* below).

(d) At present, there is no proposal under consideration to select more stations.

(e) Initially, the criteria adopted was to select one important station on each division for providing upgraded passenger amenities at stations. Later on, other stations which were considered essential for upgradation of passenger amenities were also selected. Finally all 'A' class stations have been included alongwith some other stations serving special local needs. As regards requirement of funds, Zonal Railways have been authorised to make available the funds out of the

lumpsum allocation of funds under the Plan Head "Passengers and other Railway Users Amenities" and "Computerisation".

Statement

The number of stations selected State-wise as 'Model Stations' for provision of upgraded passenger amenities

State	Number of stations
Assam	9
Andhra Pradesh	13
Bihar	23
Chandigarh	1
Chhattisgarh	3
Delhi	5
Gujarat	13
Goa	2
Himachal Pradesh	1
Haryana	6
Jammu & Kashmir	2
Jharkhand	7
Karnataka	9
Kerala	10
Madhya Pradesh	11
Maharashtra	17
Nagaland	1
Orissa	18
Pondicherry	1
Punjab	9
Rajasthan	10
Tamil Nadu	15
Tripura	1

State	Number of stations
Uttar Pradesh	33
Uttaranchal	4
West Bengal	60
TOTAL:	284

Rail connection between Shyamsundarpur and Chanchai

2238. SHRI R.N. ARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3741, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd December, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the proposal of extending the new rail link from Shyamsundarpur to Chanchai is still pending with the Ministry;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be finally cleared;

(c) by when the necessary administrative approval is likely to be accorded and the final location survey work started; and

(d) whether monetary provision for this construction is proposed to be included in the ensuing budget of the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It has been decided to take up the work of new line between Shyamsundarpur and Chanchai as a material modification to the ongoing Bankura Damodar River Railway line gauge conversion project. The final location survey will be taken up in due course.

(d) This work is a part of the ongoing Bankura Damodar River Railway line gauge conversion project and necessary funds have been provided for this project as a whole.